



# NEWS RELEASE

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

***January 31, 2006***

## ***North Dakota Outfitter Sentenced for Killing of Eagles and Unlawful Guiding***

**BISMARCK** - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced today that

**Warren W. Anderson**, 61, of Bowman, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on four Federal charges involving violations of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Lacey Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Pursuant to a Federal/State Global Plea Agreement, **Anderson** also pled guilty to two North Dakota State Class A Misdemeanors earlier this year.

Count One of the Federal Information charged **Anderson** with unlawfully killing a golden eagle. Count Two charged **Anderson** with illegally possessing and transporting a bald eagle, and is a felony charge as it was a subsequent conviction to Count One, or in other terms, a second offense. Count Three charged the unlawful killing of five hawks. Count Four charged a violation of the Lacey Act for **Anderson's** role in helping hunters transport an overlimit of pheasants out of state. All of the charged offenses occurred in 2004.

**Anderson**, a North Dakota licensed Outfitter doing business as Stage Creek Hunting and Guide Service, provided services for out-of-state upland game bird hunting clients. A joint covert investigation was initiated between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDG&F) in 2004 when State and Federal Officers had

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accumulated numerous raptor (eagles, hawks, and owls) carcasses from areas known to be frequented by **Anderson**. Additionally, the Service and the NDG&F had accumulated complaints from concerned citizens indicating **Anderson** may have been shooting raptor stemming back to 2001.

In October 2004 Service Agents posing as nonresident hunters booked a three-day upland game bird hunt with **Anderson**. During the hunt, the Agents observed **Anderson** shoot and kill a golden eagle, shoot and cripple a second golden eagle, and attempt to take two other golden eagles. **Anderson** informed the Agents of a location near **Anderson's** residence where **Anderson** had shot raptors as they perched on a tree within a State Management Area. Later the Agents went to the location described by **Anderson** and recovered five dead hawks which had been shot. During the hunt **Anderson** poached a whitetail deer and instructed and aided the Agents in exceeding their daily limits and possession limits of pheasants, guided the Agents on PLOTS ground, instructed and aided in trespassing on private land while hunting, and instructed the Agents to shoot and participated in shooting shotguns from a moving vehicle at raptors, pheasants, and whitetail deer.

**Anderson** told the Agents that he had shot approximately five eagles each year, shot whitetail deer and had left them to die in landowners shelter belts and fields, guided clients who had exceeded their daily bag limit of Canada geese while shooting toxic shot, and had instructed other clients to shoot raptors.

In December 2004 the Agents hunted with **Anderson** for a second hunt. The Agents were taken by **Anderson** to an empty grain bin where **Anderson** had placed a dead bald eagle and a golden eagle for the Agents. **Anderson** admitted to possessing and transporting the eagles. Laboratory analysis later revealed both eagles recovered by the Agents in December 2004 had been shot.

Based upon intelligence obtained from the Agents and evidence seized during the warrant, nine additional clients of **Anderson** were cited Federally for the unlawful take, possession, and transportation of pheasants and waterfowl.

On January 31, 2006, Judge Hovland sentenced **Anderson** to two years of Federal probation with home detention, and **Anderson's** world-wide hunting privileges were suspended. **Anderson** must pay restitution in the amount of \$55,000.00, a fine of \$5000, along with a \$160.00 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. **Anderson** was further ordered to forfeit five firearms. By virtue of the felony conviction, **Anderson** is also prohibited from possessing all firearms for life.

Assistant United States Attorney Cameron Hayden and Bowman County State's Attorney Nici Meyer prosecuted the case.

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